



Town of Warren, Rhode Island

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## Minutes of the Economic Development Board

The Town of Warren, RI Economic Development Board met at a Regular Meeting on March 25, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at Warren Town Hall (Senior Center). The presiding officer was Karen Dionne. Board members present were Sara Volino, Kathy Tucciarone, Mark Lombari, Christine Lichatz, and Ben Terry. Spencer Morris was absent. Joanne Demars of the USDA was in attendance as a special guest. Kristin MacDonald was present at the meeting to serve as Secretary to the EDB.

### **1. Review and Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting held February 17, 2014**

The minutes from the regular meeting held on February 17, 2014 were reviewed by the board via email. A motion was made by Ms. Volino to accept the minutes, the motion was seconded by Ms. Lichatz, and all members were in favor.

### **2. Consultation with Joanne Demars from the USDA regarding update on Warren spring clean-up project.**

Ms. Dionne presented the board with a sample flier to hand out to businesses for the spring clean-up project. The board commented on a few minor changes to the flier, such as enlarging the logo. Ms. Dionne will make changes to the final copy and will email the board when they are ready for distribution to local businesses. Ms. Volino, who is in charge of organizing distribution of the fliers, will work together with Mr. Lombari on Water Street. Ms. Lichatz, Mr. Terry and Ms. Tucciarone will distribute fliers on Main Street. Ms. Volino will contact Mr. Morris about distributing fliers to businesses on Child and Market Streets.

The board focused on the issue of vacant storefronts on Main Street. There are several vacant spaces being used for storage and another where the window is covered in newspaper. Ms. Tucciarone will contact the owners of these vacant properties in the next week. The board discussed several ways of improving the streetscape by placing artwork, merchandise from local businesses, or posters promoting a local business, in the empty windows. After some discussion, the board agreed that Ms. Tucciarone must contact the business owners to ascertain which storefronts will be available for improvement. Ms. Tucciarone will contact the board as soon as she knows which spaces are available.

### **3. Discussion of work plan initiatives and EDB funds available for 2014**

The board discussed the need for improved zoning enforcement and agreed to make a recommendation to Town Council that the town should hire a zoning enforcement officer. Ms. Volino made a motion the board write a letter to Town Council advocating for a zoning enforcement officer, the motion was seconded by Ms. Tucciarone, and all members were in favor. Ms. Dionne submit a recommendation letter to Town Council for the April meeting. She will send the letter out to the board for review. The board agreed to discuss work plan initiative in greater detail at the next meeting.

### **5. Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn by Ms. Dionne, the motion was seconded by Mr. Terry, and all members were in favor.

The next meeting of the EDB is scheduled for Monday, April 21, 2014.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristin M. MacDonald  
April 19, 2014

